

Information Assets Management, Inc., Saves the Laboratory Time and Money

Thousands of documents and blueprints from multiple architectural and engineering firms; scores of reviewers from numerous Laboratory departments and other government agencies; and strict federal, state, and local regulatory requirements and deadlines. These are some of the challenges facing the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Building Replacement (CMRR) project team, which must oversee the complex design and construction of this new multi-million dollar nuclear facility.

“This is a huge project, and we have many milestones to meet over the next three years during the design phase of this highly technical and advanced facility,” explains Juan Corpion, CMRR Project Operations Leader.

The traditional document review and approval process goes something like this: a truckload of boxes, each containing hundreds of paper documents, is delivered to LANL project management teams. Those teams must review each document and then categorize, distribute, assign, track, aggregate, analyze, revise, approve, and forward them. When performed manually, this review process may require weeks, even months, for any given document—time and resources that the Laboratory does not have.

“Since the timely delivery of this project is a high priority to the National Nuclear Security Administration, we needed to improve the quality and speed of design reviews, as well as the traceability of facility designs and specifications,” said Corpion.

Corpion and his team conducted an extensive nationwide search for a company that could deliver an electronic, real-time, collaborative document review and control system. They finally found one, right in their own backyard.

Information Assets Management, Inc., is a small, woman-owned, northern New Mexico business. The company began working with Corpion’s team in 2002 after providing an electronic review system that transforms what is normally a two-month manual (pen and paper) review process into a two to three-day, online collaborative process.

“Juan Corpion presented the problem to us, and we were able to develop an effective solution that was light years ahead of our competition,” said Alice Quintanilla, CEO and owner of the company. “We delivered it in only a few months.”

Below: Alice Quintanilla



“They’ve done a great job of anticipating how to best tackle the volume of data that are being produced during design and anticipating how best to use these data during actual construction and commissioning of the CMRR facilities,” said Corpion.

The CMRR project team has so far reviewed hundreds of documents using the company’s electronic review system. The new paperless review system not only saves the Laboratory time and money but also reduces the impact upon the environment.

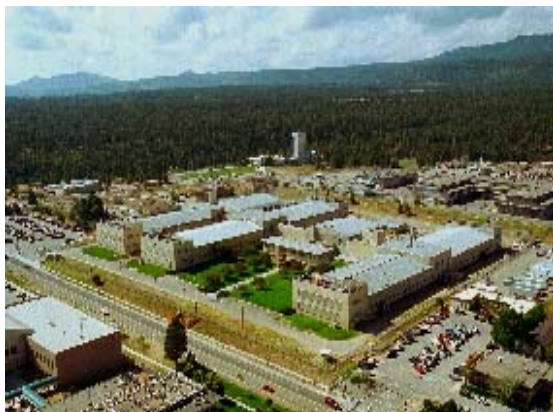
“Our capabilities enabled us to build a business relationship with the Laboratory that began as a month-to-month engagement, but was recently extended to a multi-year contract with the Laboratory,” said Quintanilla.

Quintanilla adds that she and her staff are thrilled to be given the opportunity to work on such an important Laboratory project. “This is an exciting time, because not only do the Laboratory and our company benefit from this contract but also the local community as money is pumped back into the economy through the hiring of additional workforce,” said Quintanilla.

Information Assets Management, Inc., hired additional staff when they began working on the CMRR project, including an on-site coordinator. The company plans on hiring more technical personnel within the next few months. Quintanilla notes that it is her company’s policy to search first for employees from northern New Mexico. If the necessary technical skills can’t be found locally, then she may have to extend her search.

“I am very happy with the results they have provided us,” said Corpion. “Information Assets Management, Inc., has successfully met our initial requirements, which were to improve Laboratory subject-matter expert reviews and rapidly incorporate their comments using our design management and document control system that meets the complex quality assurance and configuration control requirements for nuclear facility design and construction.”

For more information about Information Assets Management, Inc., please visit their Web site at <http://www.info-assets.com>. See the sidebar for details about the CMRR project.



Above: Current CMR Building. Left: Sketch of CMR Replacement Building
Photos Courtesy of Juan Corpion (CMRR Project Operations Leader)

Los Alamos National Laboratory is operated by the University of California for the National Nuclear Security Administration of the U.S. Department of Energy and works in partnership with NNSA's Sandia and Lawrence Livermore national laboratories to support NNSA in its mission.

Los Alamos enhances global security by ensuring the safety and reliability of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile, developing technical solutions to reduce the threat of weapons of mass destruction and solving problems related to energy, environment, infrastructure, health and national security concerns.

-30-